

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR.

OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

Volume XXXI.....No. 4

ANNUALS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway-King Chambers-  
Duff Jones at the Theatre.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery-Harvey Matthews-  
Barnes at the Theatre.NORTH THEATRE, Chambers street-New Year's  
New-Year to Niagara-Burns's New York Directory  
for 1856.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway-Bold Dragons-  
Foca's New Year's Eve for a Holiday.LAURA KIRBY'S THEATRE, Broadway-Mark and  
Packer-Develin's Entertainment.WOOD'S MINSTREL'S, 444 Broadway-Stronach's Per-  
formances.BOWLING GREEN OPERA HOUSE, 339 Broad-  
way-Edwards's Opera and Musical Minstrel.BROOKLYN ATHENAEUM, Brooklyn-Europian and  
Sociological Society.

New York, Saturday, January 5, 1856.

Mails for Europe.

NEW YORK HERALD-EDITION FOR EUROPE.

The Collins mail steamship Pacific, Capt. Edridge, will  
leave this port to-day, at noon, for Liverpool.The European mails will close in this city at half-past  
ten o'clock this morning.The Herald (printed in English and French) will be  
published at nine o'clock in the morning. Single copies,  
in wrappers, six cents.Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of  
the NEW YORK HERALD will be received at the following  
places in Europe:-LONDON-Am. & European Express Co., 11 and 13 Cornhill.  
PARIS-Am. & European Express Co., 8 Place de la Bourse.  
LIVERPOOL-John Hunter, 12 Exchange street, East.The contents of the European edition of the HERALD  
will be sent by mail to all subscribers at the rate of  
three shillings per annum, in advance, and to the hour of  
publication.

Mails for the Pacific.

THE NEW YORK HERALD-CALIFORNIA EDITION.

The United States mail steamship George L. V. Captain  
Henderson, will leave this port this afternoon at two  
o'clock, for Aspinwall.The mails for California and other parts of the Pacific  
will close at one o'clock.The New York Herald-California edition-  
containing the latest intelligence from all parts of the  
world, will be published at eleven o'clock in the morning.Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.  
Agents will please send in their orders as early as possi-  
ble.

The News.

Neither of the steamers due from Europe had  
made their appearance up to the time our paper was  
put to press. The weather at this port and at Hal-  
fax last night was fine, and the sky clear. The de-  
tention of the steamers is undoubtedly attributable  
to the severe storms that have recently prevailed.The session of the House of Representatives yester-  
day produced no result as regards the Speaker-  
ship. A speech from Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina,  
in which he expressed the opinion that the Union is  
hurrying to dissolution; a couple of novel propo-  
sitions for overcoming the existing difficulty, which  
were promptly rejected; and two additional ballots  
for Speaker, comprised the business transac-  
ted. The Senate was not in session.The letter of our Washington correspondent,  
published elsewhere, contains several extraordinary  
statements relative to Central American affairs, to  
which the attention of readers is directed. Col.  
French is immensely popular at Washington, and  
has received assurance of support from members of  
Congress from all quarters of the country.In the New York Senate yesterday a bill was  
presented to amend the General Banking law as far  
as relates to bonds and mortgages as a basis for  
banking. It is the same as the bill introduced last  
year providing for a margin of twenty per cent on  
mortgages deposited by banks. In the Assembly  
several additional votes for Speaker were taken,  
without change in the result. Both branches ad-  
journed over till Monday.The news from Mexico, published in another  
column, does not give a very favorable view of the  
prospects of Comonfort's administration. His gov-  
ernment is evidently only one of transition, and will  
probably soon give place to that of Almonte.Our readers will find a list of his new cabinet, with a  
sketch of the antecedents of the men who compose it.  
Revolutionary movements had taken place in  
several of the departments, but they had been easily  
quelled. Alvarez had left Mexico with his ragged  
regiment of Pintos, very much to the relief of the  
inhabitants of that city. Details are given of a mil-  
lustering expedition against Mazatlan, under the  
command of a person named Teran; but the ad-  
venturers are reported to have been routed without  
loss by the Mexican troops and people. The leader  
of the expedition and the crews of the two vessels  
comprising it had been taken prisoners, and sent to  
San Blas for safe keeping.We publish this morning a synopsis of the annual  
report of the Postmaster General; the report of the  
Secretary of the Interior; also the report of the  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The first named  
reports of ocean postage, and gives the days of depar-  
ture of the mail steamers during the ensuing year;  
the second furnishes a year's history of the internal  
concerns of the country; and the third is an ex-  
position of the present condition of the aborigines,  
against whom a vigorous war is just now being waged  
by government.The free State party of Kansas have nominated  
Charles Robinson for Governor, N. Y. Roberts for  
Lieut. Governor, and M. M. Delahay for Congress.  
The election takes place on the 13th inst. There is a  
report from St. Louis to the effect that a mob of  
Missourians had sacked the printing office of the  
Territorial Reporter, an administration paper.Major Farnsworth, who is implicated in the alleged  
filibuster movement, yesterday appeared before one  
of the Brooklyn Judges, and gave bonds to answer  
the charge of assault upon Mr. Wm. H. Allen.Judge Wells, an anti-liquor law democrat, was  
yesterday elected and inaugurated as Governor of  
Maine. In his message to the Legislature Judge  
Wells recommends the licensing of the sale of liquor,  
in place of the odious prohibitory system.The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about  
2,200 bales, the market closing firm and in favor  
of the seller. Medium and common grades of flour  
were 6 1/2c. per 100 lbs. lower, with a fair amount of sales  
for export. Wheat was steady, but inactive. A  
cargo of Virginia white sold at \$2 1/2; a lot of Mis-  
souri do., at \$2 20, and a small parcel of common  
red Tennessee at \$1 30. Corn was in good demand  
for export, at steady prices. Mess pork sold at 41 1/2  
to 42 1/2. Beef and lard were dull. Sugars were  
steady, with a fair demand. Among the sales were  
18,000 bags Manila, for refining, on private terms.  
Molasses was firm, at 40c. for New Orleans new,  
and a sale of 125 hhds. new crop claret Cuba, the  
first of the season, was made at 42c. Freight was  
steady, with moderate engagements. To London  
there was more offering, and rates closed quite firm;  
4s. 6d. was demanded for flour, and 12d. for grain.  
To Havre rates were steady, without change in  
quotations.GENERAL PIERCE AND JOHN P. HALE-NEW  
HAMPSHIRE LOOKING UP-There seems to be  
about the same degree of brotherly affection  
between John P. Hale and Franklin Pierce, of  
New Hampshire, as exists in that cordial spirit  
of brotherhood which distinguishes the existing  
relations between William L. Marcy and  
Daniel S. Dickinson, of New York. Like Marcy  
and Dickinson, these two other late amiable  
brothers in the line, Pierce and Hale,  
have fought many battles together.

battles together; and now they are,  
and for some years have been, as  
zealously devoted to each other's destruction  
as Fillmore and Seward. With the election of  
Gen. Pierce as President, it was thought that  
John P. Hale had gone down into the very  
depths of political oblivion; but another turn  
of the political wheel has carried Hale back  
again into the Senate, and Pierce to the level  
of Captain John Tyler as a candidate for the  
succession.

The Senate at Washington were edified the  
other day with the views of Mr. Hale upon this  
point, in his characteristic bluntness of style.  
He declared that the President's Message, and  
the impatience of Mr. Pierce to get it before  
Congress, might be safely charged to his desire  
for another term, and his expectations from  
another National Democratic Convention; but  
Hale thinks that his late political brother from  
the Granite hills has no more chance for the  
Cincinnati nomination than one of the pages  
of the Senate. And we believe that this is the  
opinion of almost every man, woman and child  
in the Union detached from the disbursements  
of the public treasury. The delusion of Mr.  
Pierce on this subject is transparent, perhaps,  
even to his courtiers and flunkies who have  
invigiled him into this folly. A war with  
England and Denmark would hardly suffice to  
turn the democratic current back upon the  
White House. Our Executive has been be-  
trayed by his flunkies. Has he no confidential  
friend among them bold enough to tell him the  
truth? It is a shame that they have thus de-  
ceived him.

**The Presidential Question-The February  
National American Council at Philadelphia-  
Decisive Action Its Manifest Policy.**

On the 22d of February the conserva-  
tive American party are to hold their National  
Council at Philadelphia, appointed for the  
nomination of their ticket for the Presidency.  
This assemblage will therefore be an important  
one, inasmuch as it is designed to lead off with  
the American nominees in the entries for the  
sweepstakes of the great Derby day of next  
November.

In this view, we publish this morning from  
an intelligent Know Nothing at Cincinnati, an  
earnest appeal for a ticket at this Philadelphia  
February Council, and in behalf of the selection  
of "Live Oak George" as the man most avail-  
able for the independent organization, policy  
and purposes of the American party. This  
appeal will be specially interesting, and may  
be particularly useful at this crisis to the dele-  
gates appointed or to be appointed from the  
different States to the Philadelphia Council, in  
enabling them to give shape and consistency,  
nationality and unity to their transactions.  
Leaving the letter to speak for itself,  
and for the favorite candidate of the writer,  
we have simply a few observations to make  
touching the policy of the American party upon  
the question of a nomination or no nomination  
at this February National Council. Let it  
here, however, be distinctly understood, that  
the NEW YORK HERALD, in this campaign, will  
adhere to its uniform independent line of ac-  
tion. It has not been, is not now, and will not  
be hereafter, the policy of this journal to be-  
come the instrument of any man or any party;  
but, of the several tickets which may be in the  
field, that which we shall consider as best  
adapted to meet the wishes of the solid Ameri-  
can people, in upholding the constitution and  
the Union, and in advancing the power, pros-  
perity and glory of the republic, at home and  
abroad, will be our ticket for the succession.

There are wide differences of opinion exist-  
ing among the leaders of the American party  
upon the question of a nomination at this  
February Council. The friends of "Live Oak  
George," whose minds are made up that that  
available man is the great desideratum, and that  
platforms are but scarecrows and humbugs,  
desire the nomination of their candidate  
at once, because they believe he will at once  
form the nucleus for the rapid reorganization  
and nationalization of the party upon a sub-  
stantial, tangible and living embodiment of  
their principles. In the extreme South, on the  
other hand, the Know Nothing leaders and or-  
gans generally are opposed to a nomination in  
February, and are for waiting the movements  
of the democrats and black republicans before  
taking any decisive steps for the campaign, in  
the hope that some divisions, accidents, inci-  
dents and lucky chances may thus occur,  
which the third party may turn to good ad-  
vantage by stepping in behind and gleaming  
up the refuse of the field. We incline, how-  
ever, to the opinion that the true policy of the  
Know Nothings is to make their nomination  
at this February Council, and to select a man  
whose history is not compromised with the  
corruptions, the schemes, the disappointments  
and pilfering antecedents of any branch of  
either of the old parties of the country-such  
a man, for example, as will be the representa-  
tive, in himself, of the new party, its new  
principles and platform, and its nationality  
and consistency with such a nomination.

The democrats of Congress have proclaimed  
the platform of their party for 1856. The  
party are rallying together upon it through-  
out the country. The Seward abolition league  
will meet in a sort of informal general con-  
vention at Pittsburgh on the 22d of February,  
at which, we presume, their plan of operations  
will be sufficiently shaped out to bring  
all the rags and tags and odds and ends  
together, representing the implacable  
abolition and free soil fanaticism of the  
North. In the meantime, the squabble in  
Congress for the Speaker has drawn the line  
of demarcation there between the three parties  
concerned, and has left the conservative  
national Americans of the House in a minor-  
ity so small that unless something be done in  
season to strengthen it, it may be frittered  
away between democrats and black republi-  
cans, together with the party it represents  
throughout the country. To strengthen this  
minority, then, in Congress, and to give their  
party a nucleus upon which they may rally  
and organize in all sections as a distinct, ho-  
mogeneous and independent Presidential party,  
we should say that a popular candidate  
from this February Council is the very best  
thing that can be done.

But there will also be required some radical  
amendments and excisions of rituals, and con-  
stitutions, and ceremonials, at this February  
Council, without which, as the Know Nothing  
candidate, not even the personal popularity  
of Gen. Jackson would suffice to compass  
the formidable task of carrying the Presi-  
dential election of next November. Again, if the  
forty or fifty thousand democrats in this State  
who have joined the Order, or who have co-  
operated with it in our State elections since  
last year, are to be won back to the party, it

must soon assume a definite shape, or they will  
be carried by the temptations of the Cincinnati  
Convention back again into the demo-  
cratic ranks.

The developments in Congress show that  
the conservative Americans have not only the  
great work to do of a party purification and  
reconstruction, but that in their formal separa-  
tion from the black republicans, considera-  
ble reinforcements will be required from the  
loose materials of the country before they can  
reasonably count upon winning the prize of  
the White House, and its seventy-five millions  
per annum of public plunder. Is it not then  
the manifest policy of the conservative Know  
Nothings to act boldly while these loose materi-  
als are still adrift?

The task before this Philadelphia Grand Na-  
tional Council will be difficult and delicate.  
The results of its deliberations will, perhaps,  
be decisive of the rapid reconstruction through-  
out the Union of the party concerned, or its  
speedy disintegration and absorption between  
the two other parties in the field.

**Secretary Dobbin's Report-Defence of the  
Naval Retiring Board.**

In the annual report of the Secretary of the  
Navy to the President, Mr. Dobbin devotes  
considerable space to a defence of the Naval  
Retiring Board. He enters into an elaborate  
statement of the circumstances under which  
the bill creating the Board was passed by Con-  
gress, the general approval which it met with,  
and the care taken to render the constitution  
of the commission such as to ensure a fair and  
impartial result. Although some mistakes and  
errors of judgment may have been committed,  
and for which a remedy can be provided, he  
does not see fit to recommend the action of  
any measure of repeal, or any course of pro-  
ceeding in conflict with the general position of  
the Board. He expresses his conviction that,  
in the discharge of their painful and delicate  
duties, its members were actuated by elevated  
considerations, and that their aim was truth,  
impartiality, and the good of the service. And  
the effect upon the Navy of the changes which  
it has effected, he asserts to be already mani-  
fest in the new impulse and readiness for duty  
felt in the department.

It is pleasant to find so much official satisfac-  
tion at the results of an inquiry respecting  
which such strong doubts are entertained else-  
where. The flippant generalities of Mr. Dob-  
bin will, however, neither convince the public  
that grievous and unnecessary wrong has  
not been done to a large number of meritorious  
officers, or that the Board has been in all  
cases actuated by the pure and elevated mo-  
tives which he claims for it. But admitting,  
for argument sake, that these acts of injus-  
tice have been committed unintentionally, the  
Secretary has laid himself open to serious cen-  
sure for giving them the sanction of his approval.  
According to the terms of his own in-  
structions to the Board, he appears to have  
labored under no misconception of the powers  
conferred by the act, and therefore cannot jus-  
tify his conduct by any pretence of that sort.  
The duties of the commission he states to be  
merely of an advisory character, showing that  
the act left large powers of discretion to the  
President in acting upon its recommendations.  
Where, then, was the necessity or justice of his  
giving his official sanction to the blunders of  
the Board, of which he could not plead igno-  
rance, and of blighting the characters and  
ruining the professional reputations of the of-  
ficers who were unfortunately made the victims  
of them. The task which is now imposed on  
Congress of redressing their grievances, might  
have been obviated altogether if Mr. Dobbin  
had understood his duties better, and had had  
the moral courage to fulfil them. Such a  
course would have spared the unnecessary dis-  
grace and agony of mind which the official con-  
firmation of these admitted "mistakes of judg-  
ment" has inflicted upon so many deserving  
officers.

With regard to the conduct of the Board it-  
self, we are by no means prepared to coincide  
in the eulogiums pronounced upon it by the  
Secretary. The facts that have already trans-  
pired show clearly that it was guided by no  
settled principles in its proceedings, the  
meaning of the act having been strained in  
numerous instances to meet the peculiar views  
of its members. By the express terms of the  
bill, the inquiries of the Board were limited to  
the single question of the inability or incompe-  
tency of an officer for the discharge of his du-  
ties. It was manifestly intended by Congress  
that this incompetency should only be judged  
of by the Board on the evidence of certain  
notorious mental and physical disqualifications,  
such, for instance, as insanity, bodily infirmity,  
or old age. Had it been the object of the bill  
to give the Board power to inquire into charges  
of misconduct or violations of duty, some pro-  
vision would undoubtedly have been made to  
afford the accused parties an opportunity of  
hearing and rebutting the charges preferred  
against them. If Congress meant to confer  
such extensive and arbitrary powers as those  
exercised, it would have been acting in express  
contravention of the constitution. Besides, by  
so doing it would have removed these offences  
out of the jurisdiction of the regular tribunals  
appointed to try them, and would have created  
another not known to or recognized by our  
laws.

In assuming, therefore, the faculty of in-  
quiring into alleged moral delinquencies or  
violations of duty, the Board clearly trans-  
cended its powers, and both in principle and  
in form violated all those constitutional  
guarantees which have been formed to pro-  
tect the rights and liberties of American citi-  
zens. It not only took upon itself a jurisdic-  
tion to which it could assert no claim, but it  
thrust aside all those solemn forms of proce-  
dure by which our laws wisely impose a check  
upon the mal-administration of justice. How  
can it be expected that in presence of such  
facts, the naval profession or the public should  
entertain confidence in the decisions of the  
Board? How much less are they entitled to  
our respect when we find the results of these  
decisions impugned on every side; when we  
see numerous evidences of their partiality in  
the retirement of officers of high moral and  
professional character, as well as of admitted  
efficiency, and in the retention on active ser-  
vice of men notorious for the opposite quali-  
ties, and who have been frequently visited with  
the censure of the Department.

If, by measures such as these, the service  
has been reinvigorated and its greater effi-  
ciency secured, as Mr. Dobbin has the boldness to  
tell us, we have only to congratulate the  
country on such easy results. Their success,  
as a paradox, will, however, upset all our pre-  
conceived notions of the value of constitutional

**The Report of the Secretary of War.**

It appears that the military force of the  
United States is larger at the present moment  
than it has ever been during peace. The  
authorized strength of the army is 17,867; the  
real strength, 15,752, officers and men. It is  
moreover the belief of the Secretary that in a  
few months the entire levy authorized will be  
on foot: this impression is founded on the fact  
that during the past year 10,546 men have been  
enlisted. The chief necessity for this large  
standing army appears to arise from the mis-  
management of the government agents who  
have to deal with the northwestern Indians.  
The Hudson's Bay Company and the other fur  
companies have actually had their agents  
living in the territory of these Indians, and  
hunting year after year on their grounds, and  
by judicious management have contrived to  
get along without any bloodshed to speak of.  
But the United States government, as it ap-  
pears, requires fifteen thousand men to keep  
the frontier against them, and contrives no  
better mode of civilizing them than putting  
them to death. Such is the progress we have  
made since the days of Miles Standish and  
John Underhill.

The report of the Secretary of War is long,  
and contains much necessary, though un-  
interesting detail with regard to military  
operations, buildings, &c. It informs us  
among other things that camels and dromedaries  
have been procured for army purposes  
from the East; and that the manu-  
facture of smooth-bored arms at the na-  
tional armory has been brought to a close,  
and that the men are already at work on the  
grooved weapons. It enters into a long  
account of the surveys that have been made  
for a Pacific railroad, and advocates that work  
with the zeal and warmth that were expected  
of Mr. Jefferson Davis. That the United States  
would find it enormously expensive, if, indeed,  
it were at all possible to keep open a military  
communication between the Pacific and the  
Atlantic shores, during a war which excluded  
them from the sea, is not to be denied; though  
the cogency of Mr. Davis's argument, that we  
ought therefore to build the road at once, is  
materially weakened, first, by the obvious pa-  
cific policy of the nation, and secondly, by the  
imperative necessity under which the people  
would find themselves to retain or regain, at  
whatever cost, the command of the sea.

The report repeats some of the recommenda-  
tions of that of last year in relation to officers.  
Such, for instance, are the suggestions for the  
establishment of a pension fund, which shall  
place the widows of officers of the army on the  
same footing as those of officers of the navy; and  
for the increase of the pay of officers. The latter  
recommendation deserves the immediate atten-  
tion of Congress. It is a fact that, considering  
the relative cost of living, &c., the officers of  
the United States army are worse paid than  
those of any European army. They are  
worse paid than men of equal attainments  
in any civil employment. A major in the  
United States service receives less money,  
including rations and allowances, than many  
bookkeepers in Wall or South street. A  
lieutenant starves. Hence it follows that no  
man can afford to be an officer in this country  
without private means of his own-a state of  
things than which nothing could be more pre-  
judicial to the true interests of the State; and  
moreover, that officers, men with families, en-  
trusted by government with the expenditure  
of large sums of public money, are exposed  
to a temptation which it is heroic virtue to  
resist.

The report further recommends that a re-  
tired list be provided for disabled and super-  
annuated officers, and that no officer be detached  
from his corps to serve permanently on the  
staff. There will be no objection to either of  
these reforms. But the Secretary should not  
have stopped here. The greatest existing mis-  
chief in the army service is the embarrassing  
effect of the present brevet system. This sys-  
tem was borrowed from Europe, and has been  
maintained here in spite of the objections of  
all sound thinkers, mainly in consequence of  
the intense conservatism with which all soldiers  
seem to be imbued. Its effect may be briefly  
described for the benefit of civilians. Promotion  
in the army goes by seniority. The lieutenant  
cannot become a captain till he has held his  
company for some years; the captain cannot  
become a major, or the major a lieutenant  
colonel, until, in like manner, a vacancy  
occurs in those grades. The effect of  
the seniority plan is to place all officers on a  
dead level-the man of genius and the dolt,  
the brave man and the coward. He who lives  
longest and takes most care of his life rises  
highest. The absurdity of this was evident  
long ago in Europe; to remedy it, the brevet  
was invented. The brevet is a promotion in  
rank, conferred on officers for distinguished  
services. When a captain, for instance, has  
a storming party successfully, he was made  
brevet-major. But as the European army leg-  
islators could not make up their minds to  
ferege altogether the convenient seniority  
slow-coach, they ruled at the same  
time that brevet rank should not super-  
cede or conflict with rank by seniority. Thus  
a captain who for distinguished services was  
made brevet-major might still find himself  
commanded by a captain whose commission  
was older than his in date, and for all practical  
purposes the brevet was made a mere nullity.  
This patent absurdity we have imported  
to this country; and many of our army officers  
cling to it.

In his last year's report Mr. Davis reviewed  
the question, and there was some hope, as well  
from the sensible language he used as from his  
probable freedom from army routine prej-  
udices, that he would this year at least di-  
rect the attention of Congress to a subject  
of such rare importance and delicacy. He  
has not done so; and so far as he is concerned  
the ridiculous European brevet-which is no-  
thing but a mockery and a delusion-is per-  
petuated in our service, serving no other real  
purpose but to bar the way for the adoption  
of a system of substantial rewards for merit.

This is not the only omission in the report.  
Nothing is said of the military commission  
sent by this government to the seat of war in  
Europe. A popular impression prevails in  
certain quarters that the three American  
officers who composed that commission have  
been well treated by the Russians, but severely  
received by the English and French. Our ad-  
vices lead us to form a directly contrary  
opinion. Why has not Mr. Secretary Davis  
stated briefly the facts?

Altogether, this report compares unfavorably  
with the reports of the other Departments.

**The Postmaster General's Report.**

Our readers have not failed to read this im-  
portant State paper, which we gave yesterday  
in advance of all our contemporaries. The  
facts in it are more than usually interesting at  
this time, when there is so much said on the  
subject of postal improvements. The Post Of-  
fice department, in one respect, keeps pace  
with the business affairs of the country, and  
that is, in its expenses. The revenue does not  
seem to be in a satisfactory state. Mr. Cam-  
pbell vouchsafes a few words on the subject of  
"franking"-that hydra in the path of the pos-  
tal Hercules-that Sebastopol in his Crimean  
campaign. The surgeon's knife, Mr. Campbell-  
cut it clean off; putting it will not effect a  
cure; the disease is radical. In speaking of  
the noble manner in which members of both  
houses of the British Parliament came forward  
and gave up the franking privilege in 1840,  
the Postmaster General commits one great  
mistake. He says "Petitions to Parliament,  
and Parliamentary documents were allowed to go  
free." This is not so; Parliamentary docu-  
ments are allowed in the mails on the same  
terms as all other mail matter-by payment of  
postage-nothing being allowed free in the  
mails except petitions to Parliament. The  
Queen of England cannot send or receive a  
note free of postage, while our members of Con-  
gress frank and send anything and everything  
they please, for nine months before their term  
of office commences, and six months after it  
has closed.

We need not go through the various items  
in the report, as they have, ere this, been read  
by all interested; but there is one part of this  
document that concerns New York very largely,  
and when we say New York, we include, of  
course, the entire commercial interests of the  
country. The Postmaster General seems particu-  
larly anxious that Congress should withdraw  
the extra compensation to the Collins line of  
steamers. Every merchant and every  
consumer in the United States is interested in  
the correspondence between this country and  
Europe, and it would be much more in ac-  
cordance with the dignity of Mr. Campbell's  
office to have something to say about more fre-  
quent mail service across the Atlantic, than to  
step out of his place to advise Congress on a  
financial matter that does not come under his  
jurisdiction. The government owes the Post  
Office about two million dollars more for  
franked correspondence and documents (esti-  
mated amount annually \$2,500,000) than it  
pays. When this is paid there is a balance of  
a few hundred thousand dollars, and this is  
caused solely by the immense amount of  
extra labor attendant on our various rates  
of postage, and the absence of that sim-  
plicity which forms so prominent a feature  
in Mr. Rowland Hill's postal system. Were  
these added to the income of the Post Office  
the vast increase that we should at once have  
were our rates of postage simplified, and if all  
the matter that now goes free were paid for,  
instead of there being this doleful financial  
picture, our Post Office would be as prosperous  
a concern as we have in the country. Here is  
a solemn lecture and a long face made over a  
pretended deficit in a department that per-  
forms all the government transportation of  
documents, while only about one-fourth of it  
is paid for; and if the postal service is worth  
anything to the country, it is worth millions  
more than its costs.

The recommendation to Congress to double  
the rates of postage on all regular newspapers  
and periodicals, comes with a rather bad grace  
from a Postmaster General who has not the  
courage to advise a discontinuance of frank-  
ing-a loading of the mails with thousands of  
tons of documents and speeches, four-  
fifths of which are of no sort of benefit to any  
human being. Perhaps Judge Campbell owes  
the newspaper press some grudge. He calls  
the low postage rates in the act of August,  
1852, a "special privilege" to a "particular  
class." What "class" can that be? Of course  
the class that takes newspapers and periodicals.  
A pretty large class, certainly. He cannot  
for a moment imagine that low post-  
ages is a boon conferred on the publishers.  
This postage tax comes out of readers, not pub-  
lishers. Then how inadequate to meet what he  
calls the deficit of two millions and a half.  
The entire amount of postage for printed mat-  
ter amounts to less than \$600,000, and not over  
\$400,000 or \$450,000 of this is on regular pa-  
pers. Double the postage on these, and in-  
stead of doubling the income, the papers would  
be taken through express and newsdealers,  
and it is doubtful if there would be as much  
newspaper postage collected as is now. If  
there were an actual gain of \$400,000 squeezed  
out of every class of hard working people  
who live at a distance from the large cities,  
and who generally take but one, or at most  
two papers, what a mere drop in the bucket  
this is as compared to the enormous amount of  
about two million dollars for franking, which  
is now saddled on the Post Office. The Post-  
master General's wishes cannot be met in  
this matter of raising the postage, unless he  
makes out a better case than he has done this  
year.

We have the important statement that the  
Collins line of steamers last year brought in  
in postage, \$154,681, being \$196,777 more  
than the year previous. This is very  
strong evidence of the value of the ser-  
vices of these magnificent steamers. We are  
told that the ocean postages on the line be-  
tween New York and Boston and Liverpool, is  
\$30,000 less the last fiscal year than the year  
before. This was to have been expected in a  
withdrawal of a portion of the Cunard steam-  
ers, leaving only weekly packets instead of  
semi-weekly. Were three-quarters of the pos-  
tages taken away, leaving only a monthly  
line, probably three-fourths of the postages  
would go with them. Mr. Vanderbilt is com-  
ing before Congress with a proposition to  
commence a new line of mail steamers to Eu-  
rope. If any one can sum up the advantages  
of a frequent intercourse with Europe by  
steamers, to our merchants, our immigrants,  
and to the country at large, we should like  
to see the figures. If we can have steamers  
once a week, or even daily, there will be  
nearly as many letters by departure of a mail  
as there is now. Then put the postage down  
to one-fourth, or one-twelfth the amount that  
is now charged, and the correspondence with  
Ireland, Scotland and Germany would be  
so great that emigration to this country  
would be doubled. Give us swift steamers,  
enough of them, and reasonable post-  
age rates; spend half a million less each  
year in printing documents that are of no  
value, and our bread, literally "cast upon  
the waters," will "return to us after many

## THE LATEST NEWS.

BY ELECTRIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

**Non-Arrival of the Canada.**

HALIFAX, Jan. 4.-A. M.  
The right is fine and clear, but up to the present mo-  
ment there are no signs of the steamship Canada. A  
strong northwest wind prevails.

**News from Kansas.**

ANOTHER POPULAR CONVENTION FOR SLAVERY NO-  
MINATIONS FOR STATE OFFICERS.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 4, 1856.  
A letter published in the St. Louis Democrat, dated  
Leavenworth, Dec. 28, says the office of the Territorial  
Register, an administration paper, was mobbed, the  
type thrown into the river, and a lot of paper burned.  
The mob was composed principally of Missourians.

The free State party, at their convention on the 22d  
of December, nominated Charles Robinson for Governor;  
N. Y. Roberts for Lieutenant Governor; and M. W.  
Delahay for Congress. The election takes place on the  
13th of January. Col. Lane, who was Robinson's  
opponent for the nomination, was defeated by a  
vote of 55 to 22.

**GOVERNOR SHANNON ABOUT TO RESIGN.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1856.  
A letter from a staff officer of the free State forces at  
Lawrence, Kansas, claims a bloodless triumph over Gov-  
ernor Shannon in the recent treaty, they having yielded  
no principle at issue. The letter further states that  
Governor Shannon and Sheriff Jones talk of resigning, if  
the people of Missouri will not keep quiet and mind their  
own business.

**News from Rio Janeiro.**

**STATE OF THE COFFEE TRADE-SHIPMENT INTEL-  
IGENCE.**

BALTIMORE, Jan. 4, 1856.

The schooner Lynchburg has arrived here, with 110  
dates to the 26th of November. Coffee was duller. Sales  
of 125,000 bags at 60 1/2c. The stock was reduced to  
120,000 bags. Holders were firm and asking higher  
rates at the close. Out of 128,000 bags sold during the  
previous month, 80,000 were for the United States, at  
41 1/2c. to 42 1/2c. for good, 41 1/2c. to 42 1/2c. for fair,  
and 27 1